

Boston, Oct. 15, 1860.

My Dear Friend:

Nothing but the lack of voice, in consequence of a bronchial difficulty which compels me to be silent, prevents my attendance at the Bradford convention. The remembrance of my visit to Vermont, two years ago, is fragrant and pleasurable to this hour. Wherever I travelled, I found kind friends and hospitable treatment, and a disposition to give me a candid hearing on the part of such as came to ~~hear me~~ ^{listen}. It is true, very many stood aloof, and would not attend, owing to a deep-seated yet groundless prejudice, which led them to imagine that my sentiments were of a pestilent character, and my purposes subversive of the very foundations of society! Had they done me the simple justice to listen to my testimonies,

they would have found them but an earnest reiteration of those which prophets and apostles uttered ages ago, and for which Jesus offered up his life on Calvary. The only abolitionism I have ever advocated is embodied in the 58th chapter of Isaiah — in the Golden Rule — and in the Declaration of Independence. If this is sedition, or fanaticism, or treason, or infidelity, I plead guilty to the charge. I am for breaking every yoke, and letting the oppressed go free. I am for doing unto others as I would be done by. I "hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Hence, my religion forbids me having any complicity with slavery, and my patriotism compels

me to inscribe upon my banner the motto,
"No Union with Slaveholders!" Hence, what-
ever stands in the way of the emancipation
of those in bondage, no matter what may be
its pretensions or claims, is repugnant to jus-
tice and at war with the rights of our com-
mon humanity; and no quarter should be
given to it. Tell me not of the sacredness
of a pro-slavery church, or the value of a
pro-slavery government: they are both inher-
ently and incurably corrupt, and deserve
no countenance, but rather to be execrated.
I care not whither the principles of liberty
lead, nor to what results. They may cost
property, reputation, life itself, but without
them there is no hope of human redemption,
and Christ will have died in vain. In
such a struggle, compromise is the worst pol-
icy, ~~as well as~~ ^{and} subversive of all right.

The work before us is not the limitation but the extinction of slavery. Ours is not a geographical conscience, "bounded by 36 degrees, 30 minutes, North latitude," but ^{it} ^{has} the claim of property in man as much in Carolina as in Kansas, and the traffic in human flesh between the several Slave States as much as between the coast of Africa and our own shores. While the North remains in religious affiliation with the South and sustains a Union cemented with the blood of those in bondage, our field of labor is and will be appropriated here. The day that shall witness her hands clean of this appalling iniquity will terminate the conflict and usher in the jubilee!

I salute your Convention with hope and joy. All the omens ^{are} with us. Forward

Yours, in every struggle for the right,
Rev. N. B. Johnston. Wm. Lloyd Garrison